Moreover, in describing the details of Mary's body, indeed of her very autopsy, Dr. Campbell is self-consciously aware that he is bringing some startlingly new content to the pages of the Telegraph and its readers:

> It is painful to me to have to obtrude such matters on the public. I know that the pages of a medical journal would be the proper place to discuss the pathological phenomena of such a peculiar case, but such journals have a very limited circulation, and you have left me no alternative but to speak out plainly to the general public in the same paper where I was attacked, and where the matter was first made known to them. (5)

If what he says of his own somewhat exclusionary sense of professionalism is accurate, doing so must have been almost as shocking for himself. It probably would occur to many readers that Dr. Campbell is literally fighting over Mary's dead body, claiming the right to speak for her in opposition to his enemies' rival claims. Neither side concedes that such a privilege must have expired with the victim, no matter whose victim she really was. Dr. Campbell's presentation of her as "the poor suffering girl" implies that Dr. Workman and his nurses hastened Mary's death by forcing her to speak in order to titillate them, mad as she was, with scandalous slander of Dr. Campbell and his son. Yet even in his own account, the lasting images are of the nurses enabling Mary to speak by closing with their fingers the hole that he himself had reopened in her throat and through which she breathed. As if by this time she could speak or breathe but not do both; and she chose to speak.